



Calhoun: The NPS Institutional Archive

History of Naval Postgraduate School

History of NPS Documents

2010

Naval Postgraduate School Historical Highlights 2010

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Naval Postgraduate School Historical Highlights, 2010

For *Update NPS*

January 2010

Willis Winter Bradley, Jr. was the first NPS alumnus to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Following a distinguished Navy career, he served in the U.S. Congress and the California State Assembly.

When he retired from public service in 1954, the California State Assembly unanimously passed House Resolution No. 20, recognizing Bradley as a “scholar, naval officer, and statesman who has brought honor to our State and our Nation” and applauding him as “a stirring example of the outstanding courage and leadership that has made this Country great.”

The keel for the *USS Bradley* (DE/FF 1041), named in his honor, was laid in January 1963 at the San Francisco Yard of Bethlehem Steel Company.

Historical Highlights are provided by the Dudley Knox Library.

February 2010

(none provided.)

March 2010

NPS faculty and student research projects top center stage in the 1987 publication *Naval Research Reviews* by the Office of Naval Research. The quarterly journal included contributions on vortex motion by Turgut Sarpkaya and materials research by Terry McNelley, mechanical engineering professors; Marginal Ice Zone research by meteorologists Ken Davidson and Peter Guest; antisubmarine warfare search problems by Jim Eagle and tactical decision-making under uncertainty by Don Gaver, both operations research faculty; and student research in space shuttle payload studies by lieutenants Austin Boyd, Brian Kosinski and Richard Weston. The journal also profiled computer science professor Richard W. Hamming, who had recently been honored by the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) through the establishment of the Richard W. Hamming Medal. Hamming was the first NPS professor to have a major scientific medal named in his honor. Last year, ITACS unveiled its new supercomputer, also named Hamming to recognize the world-renowned mathematician and computer science pioneer.

Historical Highlights are provided by the Dudley Knox Library.

April 2010

In April 1944, Captain Herman Spanagel turned over command of the USS Nashville (CL43), a light cruiser that had been engaged in several key Pacific battles from Midway to the Solomon Islands. Despite a shortage of officers in combat and his protests to remain at sea, his next command would be the Naval Postgraduate School at Annapolis. There, under the guidance of two CNO's -- Fleet Admirals Ernest King and Chester Nimitz -- Spanagel pushed several major legislative acts through Congress between 1945 and 1948, including authorization for NPS to confer degrees and the appropriations bill to purchase the Hotel Del Monte for today's campus in Monterey. Spanagel Hall, home of today's Graduate School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, was named in his honor.

Historical Highlights are provided by the Dudley Knox Library.

May 2010

The earliest known appointment for a Naval Postgraduate School professor occurred on May 6, 1910 when the 61st Congress approved Ensign Guy K. Calhoun as "professor of mathematics in the navy." Calhoun's Congressional appointment – discovered by NPS Mathematics Department Chairman Carlos Borges – sheds new light on the process of faculty hiring at Annapolis. (At this time, NPS was called the School of Marine Engineering and was co-located with the Naval Academy at Annapolis.)

Following his 1908 graduation from the Naval Academy, Calhoun made extensive computations to develop a set of math tables that proved to be highly useful to navigators. His work, "*Products of Arcs and Sines of 15-Degree Rhumbs*," was published by the Government Printing Office in 1910. *Products of Arcs and Sines*, possibly the first NPS faculty publication, has remained in print for a century and is still available to this day.

Historical Highlights are provided by the Dudley Knox Library.

June 2010

Approximately 25,000 people were on hand at the Washington Navy Yard on June 11, 1927 to welcome pioneering aviator Charles A. Lindbergh as he returned to the United States after his trans-Atlantic flight in the *Spirit of St. Louis*.

Naval Postgraduate School alumnus Eugene E. Wilson had been dispatched to Paris by the Bureau of Aeronautics Officer to accompany Lindbergh for the voyage home aboard the *USS Memphis* (CL-13). According to Wilson's papers in the Naval Academy's Special Collections & Archives (see

<http://www.usna.edu/Library/SpecialCollections/findingaids/wilson.html>), the two spent many hours in conversation on that trip and established a lifelong friendship.

Wilson resigned his commission in 1930 to become president of Hamilton Standard Propeller Corporation. He would later be president of Chance Vought Corporation, Sikorsky Aviation Corporation and United Aircraft Corporation. He would also serve as president of the Aircraft Industries Association of America and author several books about aviation.

Historical Highlights are provided by the Dudley Knox Library.

Photo caption

Aviator Charles Lindbergh prepares to depart the *USS Memphis* after arriving at the Washington Navy Yard. Behind him are the ship's commanding officer, Captain Henry E. Lackey, and NPS alumnus Commander Eugene E. Wilson, representing the Bureau of Aeronautics. Photo courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command.

July 2010

Following a six-month long contest in 1970, the Naval Postgraduate School Insigne Committee announced the winners of the competition to create a logo and motto for NPS.

The five members of the judging committee (student, staff officer, professor, civilian employee and enlisted sailor) reviewed 145 entries (75 in design and 70 in motto), awarding first place to Lt. Cmdr. Floyd Sykes for his design and first place in motto to Lt. Harold Ziehms.

The winning motto, “Nil sine magno labore” (Nothing [can be] achieved without great effort), was subsequently replaced in early 1971 with “Praestantia per scientiam” (Excellence through knowledge) which had been submitted in the competition by Lt. R.D. Jones.

Rear Adm. Robert McNitt, NPS superintendent, stated in a memorandum that the change in motto had come “after a great deal of discussion, advice, consultation and participative endeavour” to meet four main criteria and have “a rhythm or phrasing that is pleasing and satisfies the classical scholar or Latin expert.”

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August 2010

Following a six-month long contest in 1970, the Naval Postgraduate School Insignia Committee announced the winners of the competition to create a logo and motto for NPS. The five members of the judging committee – consisting of a student, staff officer, professor, civilian employee and enlisted sailor – reviewed 145 entries (75 in design and 70 in motto), awarding first place to Lt. Cmdr. Floyd Sykes for his design, similar to the crest pictured here, and first place in motto to Lt. Harold Ziehms. The winning motto, “Nil sine magno labore” or “Nothing [can be] achieved without great effort,” was subsequently replaced in early 1971 with the university’s current motto of “Praestantia per scientiam” (Excellence through knowledge) which had been submitted in the competition by Lt. R.D. Jones. Rear Adm. Robert McNitt, then NPS superintendent, stated in a memorandum that the change in motto had come “after a great deal of discussion, advice, consultation and participative endeavor” to meet four main criteria, and have “a rhythm or phrasing that is pleasing and satisfies the classical scholar or Latin expert.”

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September 2010

The Naval Postgraduate School established its Hall of Fame in September 2001 and inducted the first two members during the summer graduation ceremony. James G. Roche and Thomas E. White had both earned master of science degrees with distinction in operations research, Roche in 1966 and White in 1974. Both had been appointed service secretaries by President George Bush in 2001: Roche was Secretary of the Air Force and White was Secretary of the Army.

Historical Highlights are provided by the Dudley Knox Library.

October 2010

Captain Herman Spanagel became the head of the Naval Postgraduate School in 1944 and served as the institution’s senior officer until 1950. During this time and with top-level advocacy by Fleet Admirals Ernest J. King and Chester Nimitz as well as Secretaries of the Navy James Forrestal and John L. Sullivan, Spanagel obtained Congressional approval to give NPS degree-granting authority and purchase Hotel Del Monte for a new campus.

In October 1948, the *Journal of Engineering Education* published a speech by Spanagel titled, “Postgraduate Education for Naval Personnel” in which he noted, “World War II served as a concrete example of the benefits of education in this country.” Spanagel’s main message: “We must keep abreast of progress and anticipate the needs of the future by building a firm educational foundation to ensure the security of our Nation.”

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November 2010

The Del Monte Club was formally established in November 1947 as the Naval Postgraduate School Staff Wives' Club.

On the organization's 20th anniversary in 1967, Cary Giet, wife of electrical engineering Professor Bob Giet, noted in her keynote remarks that: "Mrs. Henry Robert who was THE authority on Parliamentary Law...gave generously of her time and advice (to write the by-laws). Lucky for us it was a gift as her fees were fabulous and she was much in demand. As a token of gratitude we made her an honorary member. She in turn presented us with our copy of Robert's Rule of Order."

Giet's 1967 speech, typed on 5"x8" cards, is part of the NPS archives in the Dudley Knox Library.

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December 2010

The December 7, 1941 surprise attack at Pearl Harbor took the lives of 1,177 men aboard the USS Arizona. Among the fatalities were the commanding officer, a Naval Postgraduate School alumnus, Captain Franklin Van Valkenburgh and three young sailors — Tom Travato, Jack Hazdovac and Michael Criscuola — from Monterey's Oak Grove Neighborhood, the community next door to today's NPS campus. Salvage operations recovered some of the gun turrets and other items from the ship, including silverware from the wardroom. The ship was never raised and the Navy declared the crew as missing at sea. A knife, spoon and two forks from the USS Arizona salvage operations are currently on display near the circulation desk in the Dudley Knox Library.

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